

# Iowa Crops & Weather



USDA – National Agricultural Statistical Service  
Iowa Field Office

210 Walnut, Room 833 • Des Moines, Iowa 50309-2195  
515-284-4340 • 1-800-772-0825 • FAX 515-284-4342 • [nass-ia@nass.usda.gov](mailto:nass-ia@nass.usda.gov)  
To access NASS reports – <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>



Issued April 3, 2006

Vol 06-04

For the month of March 2006

## NEEDED MOISTURE ARRIVED

Agricultural Summary: March brought a mixture of rain and snow, therefore the soil moisture is adequate, but not saturated. In some areas of the state, anhydrous application and spring tillage have begun. Cow/calf operators in several parts of the state lost calves during last week's snow storm. Manure hauling was good this month due to light frost penetration.

At the end of March, the average depth of **snow cover** across Iowa is negligible. The average depth of **frost penetration** for the state is 2 inches, compared to last year's 3 inches. **Soil moisture availability** was rated 16 percent very short, 34 percent short, 47 percent adequate, and 3 percent surplus, a nice increase of moisture from the past month. **Movement of grain** for the state was 23 percent none, 40 percent light, 33 percent moderate, and 4 percent heavy.

**Availability of hay and roughage supplies** was 7 percent short, 75 percent adequate, and 18 percent surplus. **Quality of hay and roughage supplies** was 5 percent poor, 40 percent fair, and 55 percent good. **Utilization of stubble fields for grazing** rated 43 percent none, 22 percent limited, 21 percent moderate, and 14 percent extensive.

**Livestock losses** continue to be light due to the warm and dry weather for most of the month. **Hog and Pig** losses were at 26 percent below average, 72 percent average, and 2 percent above average. **Cattle and calf losses** were below last year's state averages at 31 percent below average, 66 percent average, and 3 percent above average.

## IOWA PRELIMINARY WEATHER SUMMARY MARCH 2006

**General Summary.** Iowa temperatures averaged 36.7 degrees or 0.7 degrees above normal while precipitation totaled 3.14 inches or 0.93 inches greater than normal. This ranks as the 50<sup>th</sup> warmest and 18<sup>th</sup> wettest March among 134 years of state records.

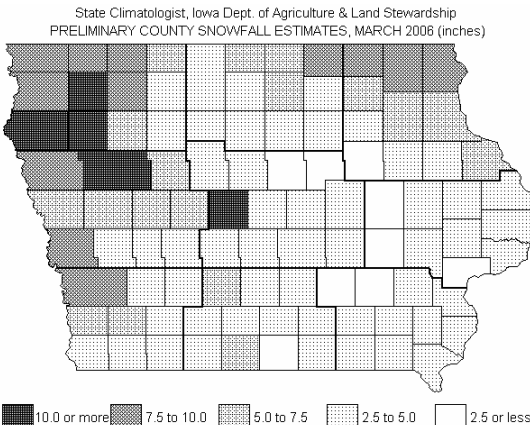
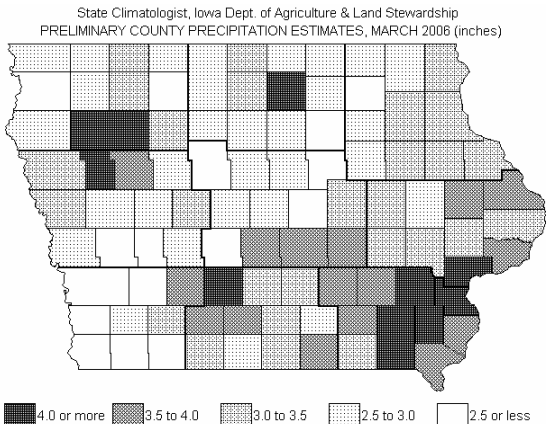
**Temperatures.** March began with above normal temperatures prevailing for the first 12 days of the month. Glenwood and Shenandoah reached 76 degrees on the 1<sup>st</sup> while Burlington recorded a 79 degrees high on the 11<sup>th</sup>. However, below normal readings were the rule every day from the 13<sup>th</sup> through the 28<sup>th</sup>. Minimum temperatures dipped into the single digits in a

few areas on the 14<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> with Mapleton the cold spot for the month with a 2 degrees low on the morning of the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Above normal temperatures finally returned for the last three days of the month with Glenwood reaching 72 degrees on the 29<sup>th</sup> and Shenandoah 73 degrees on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Heating Degree Days.** Home heating requirements, as estimated by heating degree day totals, averaged 4 percent less than last March and 3 percent less than normal. Heating requirements so far this season (since July 2005) are running 1 percent less than last season and 11% less than normal.

**Precipitation.** Precipitation was frequent and unseasonably heavy over most of Iowa with only a few locations, mainly in the southwest, failing to exceed normal. Preliminary monthly precipitation totals varied from 1.56 inches at Glenwood to 5.24 inches at Wapello. There were statewide precipitation events on the 5<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. The storm of the 5<sup>th</sup> brought 3 to 5 inches of snow to about the northeast one-third of the state with a maximum amount of 7.3 inches reported at Dorchester. Rainfall exceeded an inch across east central Iowa on the 8<sup>th</sup> with 2.00 inches reported at the Cedar Rapids Airport. Heavy snow fell across extreme northwestern Iowa on the 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> and was accompanied by strong winds. Spirit Lake reported 9 inches of wind driven snow while locally heavy rain fell across southeast Iowa where Wapello recorded 2.79 inches. The month's largest snow event started in western Iowa on the 19<sup>th</sup> and slowly spread across central and southern Iowa through the 21<sup>st</sup>. Snowfall amounts of up to 13 inches were reported in Woodbury County (mainly on the 20<sup>th</sup>) while the northeast one-third of Iowa failed to receive any precipitation during this event. Finally, the month's largest precipitation event came on the 30<sup>th</sup>. All reporting points in the state recorded at least one-third of an inch of rain while Inwood recorded the most with 3.48 inches during this late month storm.

**Severe Weather.** The 2006 severe weather season got off to a fast start with four events recorded during March. The first event produced large hail in 6 far western Iowa counties on the 7<sup>th</sup>. The next day large hail was reported from 19 counties, mostly in central and south central portions of the state. Yet another event on the 12<sup>th</sup> yielded severe weather reports from 20 counties, mostly for hail, and mainly across the southeast one-quarter of Iowa. Finally, the month's biggest event came on the 30<sup>th</sup> when high winds, along with a few reports of large hail, were reported from 38 counties across western and central Iowa.



Snow Cover and Frost Penetration for the Month of March

Item	Districts									State	Last Month	Last Year
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE			
	Inches	Inches	Inches	Inches	Inches	Inches	Inches	Inches	Inches	Inches	Inches	Inches
Snow cover	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Frost penetration	6	7	7	3	4	3	1	1	2	4	4	0

Weather Summary For Iowa Agricultural Statistics Service Prepared by AWIS, Inc. March 2006										
STATION	CURRENT WEEK						SINCE APRIL 1		CURRENT WEEK	
	TEMPERATURE				PRECIPITATION		PRECIPITATION		GDD BASE 50F	
	HI	LO	AVG	DFN	TOTAL	DFN	TOTAL	DFN	TOTAL	DFN
North West District										
Estherville	59	9	33	4	2.38	0.53	8.00	991.00	94	19
Sioux Center	60	9	36	3	2.81	0.89	7.00	898.00	65	19
Spencer	60	7	34	2	2.69	0.79	10.00	965.00	52	18
Spirit Lake	58	9	32	3	2.47	0.71	10.00	1.00	27	21
North Central District										
Britt	58	15	32	-1	3.03	1.19	9.00	11.00	19	23
Humboldt	62	15	34	0	2.84	0.81	10.00	960.00	38	23
Mason City	57	12	34	3	4.24	2.24	11.00	951.00	91	16
Osage	59	13	33	1	2.80	0.70	11.00	993.00	40	24
North East District										
Decorah	63	13	36	3	2.19	0.30	9.00	897.00	86	20
Dubuque	68	18	36	3	3.25	0.36	10.00	886.00	83	17
Elkader	67	14	34	0	3.29	1.15	9.00	946.00	32	24
Fayette	64	17	34	2	3.11	1.00	11.00	956.00	27	24
Waterloo	69	15	36	3	2.92	0.62	9.00	876.00	80	17
West Central District										
Carroll	68	11	35	2	3.24	1.01	12.00	909.00	44	22
Castana	67	14	36	-1	2.51	0.38	10.00	901.00	86	22
Guthrie Center	71	6	36	0	2.82	0.37	7.00	904.00	-4	21
Harlan	72	13	37	0	2.77	0.66	11.00	868.00	91	21
Jefferson	70	13	36	3	3.19	0.96	10.00	893.00	60	20
Logan	71	10	37	2	2.65	0.61	8.00	848.00	49	16
Rockwell City	64	11	34	-2	2.66	0.77	11.00	949.00	22	23
Sac City	69	11	34	2	4.23	1.91	12.00	940.00	52	24
Sioux City	66	4	37	2	2.63	0.67	11.00	852.00	55	14
Central District										
Boone	69	8	35	0	3.29	0.98	11.00	908.00	16	20
Des Moines	70	16	40	4	4.05	1.72	10.00	765.00	95	9
Grundy Center	68	16	35	3	2.29	0.06	11.00	917.00	81	23
Marshalltown	69	9	37	3	2.61	0.22	11.00	863.00	78	17
Newton	68	15	36	0	4.25	2.02	9.00	892.00	5	19
Perry	70	13	36	2	2.17	0.16	10.00	889.00	60	21
Toledo	66	15	35	2	2.52	0.26	8.00	917.00	39	25
East Central District										
Cedar Rapids	68	17	37	2	2.57	0.25	9.00	861.00	55	15
Davenport	71	16	39	3	3.71	1.46	11.00	794.00	80	11
Iowa City	73	20	40	3	3.64	1.28	10.00	765.00	66	10
Lowden	73	14	35	1	3.59	1.05	9.00	909.00	1	21
Maquoketa	69	15	35	1	4.15	1.87	9.00	919.00	28	22
Muscatine	72	20	39	2	3.72	1.01	15.00	794.00	7	15
South West District										
Atlantic	71	0	38	3	2.86	0.57	13.00	831.00	80	15
Clarinda	74	11	38	2	2.67	0.22	10.00	826.00	47	15
Glenwood	76	15	39	2	1.56	-0.49	9.00	797.00	42	14
Red Oak	75	15	39	0	2.80	0.54	11.00	795.00	-9	13
Sidney	74	19	39	2	1.69	-0.62	9.00	794.00	34	14
South Central District										
Allerton	71	16	39	2	3.41	1.10	12.00	813.00	67	14
Beaconsfield	71	15	37	0	3.03	0.80	8.00	857.00	11	18
Chariton	70	8	36	-1	2.56	0.24	8.00	879.00	20	24
Indianola	70	15	38	1	3.47	1.28	9.00	832.00	28	16
Leon	73	12	38	1	3.09	0.79	10.00	832.00	25	19
South East District										
Bloomfield	72	18	39	-2	3.58	1.01	10.00	809.00	23	17
Burlington	79	17	43	5	3.44	0.59	11.00	678.00	36	8
Ottumwa	73	15	40	2	4.00	1.72	10.00	780.00	52	12
Washington	73	12	37	-3	4.61	2.27	10.00	853.00	3	21

Precipitation (rain, melted snow or ice) in inches. Precipitation Days = Days with precipitation of 0.01 inch or more. Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit. Copyright 2006: AWIS, Inc. All Rights Reserved.